

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Rineer Hydraulics, Inc

Texas Manufacturing Assistance Center

Lean Principles Give Rineer Hydraulics a Lift

Client Profile:

Rineer Hydraulics, Inc., was formed in 1967 and has been supplying hydraulic motors to the marketplace for over 35 years. Applications in industrial, marine, and mobile industries have been the proving ground for their durable and adaptable high-torque motors. The company is located in Corpus Christi, Texas, and employs 65 people.

Situation:

Rineer Hydraulics became interested in lean manufacturing techniques to improve its business. Increasing lead times and excessive inventory levels were of utmost concern in a sluggish economy. The company turned to the Texas Manufacturing Assistance Center (TMAC), a NIST MEP network affiliate, for help with the transformation.

Solution:

Rineer worked with TMAC to transform its operations into a lean enterprise. The journey began with introductory training and Value Stream Mapping. The Value Stream Map quickly identifies opportunities on which to focus. Rineer chose to implement five Rapid Improvement Events: 1) reduce the number of required part variations and still meet the demands of its customers; 2) establish in-process inventories to help reduce lead times to the customer; 3) improve flow of material by reorganizing the final assembly shop; 4) examine ways of using Rineer's ERP system to create a pull system for its inventory; and 5) review standard work elements/run-times.

Results:

- * Reduced rotating group variants from 62 to 23 configurations expected.
- * Reduced lead times from 5 weeks to 1 week.
- * Reduced part travel time by 75 percent.
- * Improved assembly line flow.
- * Increased productivity.
- * Improved delivery to customers.
- * Reduced floor space.

Testimonial:

"Since the beginning of Lean activities at Rineer Hydraulics, we have been able to regain our standing in the hydraulic marketplace. Our customers have benefited from shorter lead times, with some orders shipping the same day they were placed. Without taking the Lean approach, this could not have been possible. So our thanks to TMAC for providing us with the level of expertise and direction necessary to guide Rineer in the Lean direction!"

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Cuyler Larson, Change Agent / Manufacturing Engineer